



Cultural Safety: A classroom creation

Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, 2009

Defining the Classroom

- 4 walls that transcend
- Experts Vs Me interaction
- Vulnerability Vs Need to belong

GOAL

- Social construction of reality with a shared vantage point.
- No one person knows enough to stand alone

Identifying Roles thru Clarifying Expectations

- **Instructors** – Describe role and that of the student in knowledge and safety creation
- **Students** – Not expected to be experts but knowledgeable about their own cultural experiences and willing to share.
- **Together** search for *Equifinality* – the premise that the same result may be researched from different beginning points.

Cautionary points

- Ethnocentrism is always present
 - Belief that one's own culture or ethnic group is superior to others
- Exceptions to every rule
- Modeling by instructor is key
 - Must be available to diffuse, explain, and create links to various view points
 - Share thinking processes to help students value the experience

Remember difference should be celebrated